

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claim 62 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter.

Please amend Claims 24, 27, 63, 64 and 67 as follows. Note that all the claims currently pending in this application, including those not presently amended, have been reproduced below for the Examiner's convenience.

Claims 1-23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) An image processing device comprising:

a scanner for reading an image of a document and outputting an image signal;

a control unit adapted for controlling said image processing device and performing image processing on the image signal output from said scanner to provide a first processed image signal, the image processing being processing that is necessary for copying;

a first bidirectional general-purpose interface adapted for transmitting, under control of said control unit, the image signal output by said scanner to an external computer, which performs image processing on the transmitted image signal to provide a second processed image signal, and for receiving the second processed image signal from the external computer, the image processing performed by the external computer being processing that is necessary for copying; and

a second bidirectional general-purpose interface of a same standard as said first bidirectional general-purpose interface adapted for outputting the first processed image signal and the second processed image signal to a printer,

wherein said image processing device has a plurality of modes including a read mode, a print mode, a first copying mode ~~performed in response to a copying designation by a user~~, and a second copying mode,

wherein, in the read mode for performing read operation in response to a read designation by a user, the image signal from said scanner is transmitted to the external computer via said first bidirectional general-purpose interface,

wherein, in the print mode for performing print operation in response to a print designation by the user, the image signal from the external computer is transmitted to the printer via said first bidirectional general-purpose interface and said second bidirectional general-purpose interface,

wherein, in the first copying mode for performing first copying operation based on the second processed image signal in response to a copying designation by the user, the image signal from said scanner is transmitted to the external computer where the image signal is processed into the second processed image signal via said control unit and said first bidirectional general-purpose interface, and thereafter the second processed image signal is transmitted to the printer via said first bidirectional general-purpose interface, said control unit, and said second bidirectional general-purpose interface, ~~so as to perform copying based on the second processed image signal~~ the copying operation being completed without requiring any additional designation by the user other than the copying designation, and

wherein, in the second copying mode for performing second copying operation based on the first processed image signal, the image signal from said scanner is transmitted to said control unit where the image signal is processed into the first processed image signal and the first processed image signal is transmitted to the printer via said second bidirectional general-purpose

~~interface so as to perform copying based on the first processed image signal, and~~

~~wherein the image processing performed by the external computer in the first copying mode is different from the image processing performed by the control unit in the second copying mode.~~

25 - 26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently Amended) An image processing method for an image processing device capable of operating in a plurality of modes including a read mode, a print mode, a first copying mode, and a second copying mode, said method comprising the steps of:

in the read mode for performing read operation in response to a read designation by a user, reading an image of a document and outputting an image signal by means of a scanner, and transmitting the image signal output by the scanner to an external computer via a first bidirectional general-purpose interface,

in the print mode for performing print operation in response to a print designation by the user, receiving an image signal from the external computer via the first bidirectional general-purpose interface and outputting the image signal to a printer via a second bidirectional general-purpose interface of a same standard as the first bidirectional general-purpose interface,

in the first copying mode, performed for performing first copying operation based on a second processed image signal in response to a copying designation by a the user:

reading an image of a document and outputting an image signal by means of a the scanner;

transmitting the image signal output by the scanner to ~~an~~ the external computer via a the first bidirectional general-purpose interface, wherein the external computer performs image processing on the transmitted image signal to provide a the second processed image signal, the image processing being processing that is necessary for copying;

receiving the second processed image signal from the external computer via the first bidirectional general-purpose interface; and

outputting the second processed image signal to a the printer via a the second bidirectional general-purpose interface ~~of a same standard as the first bidirectional general-purpose interface~~, wherein the copying operation is completed without requiring any additional designation by the user other than the copying designation, and

in said second copying mode for performing second copy operation based on a first processed image data:

reading an image of a document and outputting an image signal by the scanner;
performing, ~~in a control unit for controlling the image processing device~~, image processing on the image signal output by the scanner, to provide a first processed image signal, ~~performed by the control unit~~ the image processing being processing that is necessary for copying, and

outputting the first processed image signal to the printer via said second bidirectional general-purpose interface;

~~wherein each of the first and second copying modes is performed in response to a designation of corresponding one of the first and second copying modes, and~~

~~wherein the image processing performed by the external computer in the first copying mode is different from the image processing performed by the control unit in the second copying mode.~~

28. (Canceled)

29. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 27, wherein the transmitted image signal is processed by the external computer and transmitted to a public telephone line.

30 - 57. (Canceled)

58. (Previously Presented) The image processing device according to claim 24, wherein said scanner generates a color image signal.

59. (Previously Presented) The image processing device according to claim 24, wherein said control unit has a density adjusting function.

60 - 62. (Canceled)

63. (Currently Amended) An image processing system comprising:
an information processing apparatus comprising:

a read designation unit, adapted to designate a start for reading of a document;

a print designation unit, adapted to designate a start for printing data that said information processing apparatus transmits;

a copying designation unit, adapted to designate a start for copying; and

a processing unit, adapted to process an image signal to provide a second processed image signal, and

an image processing apparatus comprising:

a scanner for reading an image of a document and outputting an image signal;

a control unit adapted for controlling said image processing apparatus and performing image processing on the image signal output from said scanner, to provide a first processed image signal, the image signal processing being processing that is necessary for copying;

a first bidirectional general-purpose interface for transmitting, under control of said control unit, the image signal output by said scanner to said information processing apparatus, which performs image processing on the transmitted image signal to provide the second processed image signal, and for receiving the second processed image signal from the information processing apparatus, performed by said image processing apparatus the image processing being processing that is necessary for copying;

a second bidirectional general-purpose interface, of a same standard as said first bidirectional general-purpose interface, adapted for outputting the first processed image signal and the second processed image signal to a printer; and

a copy key for designating a start for copying,

wherein said image processing apparatus has a plurality of modes including a read mode performed in response to a read designation by said information processing apparatus,

a print mode performed in response to a print designation by said information processing apparatus, a first copying mode performed in response to a copying designation by said information processing apparatus, and a second copying mode performed in response to a copying designation by said copy key,

wherein, in the first copying mode for performing first copying operation based on the second processed image signal in response to a copying designation by the user, the image signal from said scanner is transmitted to said information processing apparatus where the image signal is processed into the second processed image signal via said control unit and said first bidirectional general-purpose interface, and thereafter the second processed image signal is transmitted to the printer via said first bidirectional general-purpose interface, said control unit, and said second bidirectional general-purpose interface ~~so as to perform copying based on the second image signal,~~ the copying operation being completed without requiring any additional designation by the user other than the copying designation, and

wherein, in the second copying mode for performing second copying operation based on the first processed image signal, the image signal from said scanner is transmitted to said control unit where the image signal is processed into the first processed image signal and the first processed image signal is transmitted to the printer via said second bidirectional general-purpose interface ~~so as to perform copying based on the first processed image signal, and~~

~~wherein the image processing performed by the external computer in the first copying mode is different from the image processing performed by the control unit in the second copying mode.~~

64. (Currently Amended) An image processing device comprising:

a scanner for reading an image of a document and outputting an image signal;

a control unit adapted for controlling said image processing device and performing image processing on the image signal output from said scanner [,] to provide a first processed image signal, the image processing being processing that is necessary for copying;

a first interface adapted for transmitting the image signal output by said scanner to an external computer, which performs image processing on the transmitted image signal to provide a second processed image signal, and for receiving the second processed image signal from the external computer, the image processing performed by the external computer being processing that is necessary for copying; and

a second interface adapted for outputting the first processed image signal and the second processed image signal to a printer,

wherein said image processing device has a first copying mode ~~performed in response to a copying designation by a user~~, and a second copying mode,

wherein, in the first copying mode for performing first copy operation based on the second processed image signal in response to a copying designation by the user, the image signal is transmitted to the external computer where the image signal is processed into the second processed image signal via said control unit and said first interface, then the second processed image ~~signals~~ signal is transmitted to the printer via said first interface, said control unit, and said second interface, ~~so as to perform copying based on the second processed image signal~~ the copying operation being completed without requiring any additional designation by the user other than the copying designation, and

wherein, in the second copying mode for performing second copying operation based on the first processed image signal, the image signal is transmitted to said control unit where the image signal is processed into the first processed image signal and the first processed image signal is transmitted to the printer via said second interface, ~~so as to perform copying based on the first processed image signal, and~~

~~wherein the image processing performed by the external computer in the first copying mode is different from the image processing performed by said control unit in the second copying mode.~~

65. (Previously Presented) The image processing device according to claim 64, wherein, in the first copying mode, said control unit receives command information for designating the start of the scanner to read the image from the external computer via said first interface, controls the scanner to start a read operation in accordance with the command information, transmits the image signal to the external computer via said first interface, receives print data as the second processed image signal from the external computer via said first interface and transmits the print data as the second processed image signal to the printer via said second interface.

66. (Previously Presented) The image processing device according to claim 64, wherein said image processing device has a print mode, in which print data is transmitted from the external computer to said control unit via said first interface and the printer prints the print data, and an image reading mode in which an image signal from the scanner is transmitted from said control unit to the external computer via said first interface.

67. (Currently Amended) An image processing method for an image processing device capable of operating in a first copying mode and a second copying mode, said method comprising the steps of:

in the first copying mode, ~~performed~~ for performing first copying operation based on a second processed image signal in response to a copying designation by a user:

reading an image of a document and outputting an image signal by a scanner;

transmitting the image signal output by the scanner to an external computer, via a first interface, wherein the external computer performs image processing on the transmitted image signal to provide a second processed image signal, the image processing being processing that is necessary for copying;

receiving the second processing image signal from the external computer via the first interface; and

outputting the second processed image signal to a printer via a second interface,

wherein the copying operation is completed without requiring any additional designation by the user other than the copying designation, and

in the second copying mode for performing second copying operation based on a first processed image data:

reading an image of a document and outputting an image signal by the scanner;

~~performing, in a control unit for controlling the image processing device,~~ image processing on the image signal output by the scanner, to provide a first processed image signal, ~~performed by the control unit~~ the image processing being processing that is necessary for copying; and

outputting the first processed image signal to the printer via the second interface;
wherein the image processing performed by the external computer in the first copying
mode is different from the image processing performed by said control unit in the second copying
mode.